



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: CAN ANTI-BUCHANAN FORCES IN REFORM PARTY KEEP NOMINATION FROM PAT???

Editor's note: Eight years ago – about this same time, Reform Party founder Ross Perot was drawing crowds of 5,000 at campaign stops and was leading President George Bush and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton(D) in 44 States. But how things have changed!! Here's our update & analysis of where the **Reform Party USA** stands in 2000...

...Is the nation ready for a strong 3rd party candidate for president? That's really what this whole story is about. In the case of Reform Party USA, the answer is probably NO. Had Reform Party leaders been able to persuade U.S. Sen. John McCain(R-AZ) to become their nominee, then there would have a *viable* 3rd party candidate. But at this point it appears that former hardline conservative GOPer Pat Buchanan is about to grab the RPUSA nomination at the party's Aug. 10-13 convention in Long Beach. In the view of most pundits, Buchanan will make life miserable for Demos and GOPers, but he's not going to win in November...

...But not all Reform Party members are thrilled with the prospect of having Buchanan as their nominee and some say Buchanan's candidacy will mean an end to the "old" Reform Party. Sources put the following on the *not so happy with Pat list*: RPUSA founder Perot, who may not even attend the convention; former Executive Director Russell Vernay and current Nat'l Secretary Jim Mangia of Los Angeles...

...The anti-Buchanan crowd within the RP has one key beef with Buchanan: he is moving the political agenda away from core Reform Party issues such as fair trade policies and campaign reform and instead redirecting the party toward social issues in an effort to run to the right of GOP nominee-to-be George W. Bush. That means Buchanan will be taking the RPUSA away from its *libertarian views* on social issues to promote an anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-immigration, pro-gun and pro-school prayer agenda. www.gopatgo2000.org...

...But stopping Buchanan won't be easy. Buchanan has raised \$7.5 million so far and is making deals with various RPUSA officials in many of the States. Where he can't

make a deal, sources say he's forming *rogue* committees to challenge the current State party leadership at the convention. And sources believe Buchanan is at work trying to stack the credentials committee with party members who are loyal to him. In other words, a total takeover of the Reform Party. Thus we can expect lots of fireworks at the Long Beach convention...

...The key problem for the RPUSA has been finding someone, other than Perot, to run. The Reform Party's most visible elected official, Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, parted with the RPUSA months ago and is now an independent. And Ventura's choice for RPUSA president, billionaire developer Donald Trump, decided not to run either. That left a huge vacuum. There is some slight hope that Natural Law Party presidential nominee John Hagelin might be a viable alternative to Buchanan, but don't bet your first born on a coalition being formed. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: VOUCHERS & SCHOOL SPENDING.

Editor's note: This is our first report on the school voucher initiative by Silicon Valley businessman Tim Draper. However, this initiative is *linked* to the ongoing discussions in Sacramento over how much additional monies should be given to education to bring Calif. schools up to the national average in school spending. Here's our analysis...

...As a Calif. Teachers Assn. rally to push for more money for public schools got underway May 8th on the Capitol steps, a biplane flew around Sacto with a trailer which read: *It's for the kids. School Vouchers 2000.com*. Lots of people saw it and the message was not lost on CTA. The voucher petitions have been turned in and odds are Draper's initiative *will qualify* for the Nov. 7th ballot...

...Draper is the sponsor and bankrolled this initiative. The committee's name is *School Vouchers 2000*. Draper has hired the DC firm of Brabender Cox to do the tv ads. They have experience with voucher campaigns in other states. Jim Camp has been hired as the field coordinator; Pat Rosenstiel is the daily mgr.; and Barry Hutchinson handles press and media relations. The campaign's HQ ☎(650)306-1111. No

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pollster hired as yet. Website: www.vouchers2000.com...

...The last time vouchers appeared on the Calif. ballot was in November of 1993, when Prop. 174 was trounced by a 30.49% YES vs. 69.51% NO margin. Opponents, led by the educational establishment with former Gov. Pete Wilson(R), found more than a few flaws and hammered 174 to death. But 174 supporters were underfunded – that may not be the case this time, because Draper has *deep pockets*. Draper's initiative calls for a \$4,000 voucher to each child. The vouchers would be *phased in* for those already in private schools, but would be available *immediately* for children in the public schools...

...CTA is the lead opponent of vouchers, but school employees, school administrators, PTA groups, school boards, CFT and other labor unions will line up with CTA. No formal committee name yet, nor has the coalition hired a consultant, but RFPs have gone out. What's interesting is that this coalition could turn out to be a very partisan group in *Campaign 2000*, especially if Gov. George Bush(R) decides to endorse Draper's initiative. VP Al Gore(D) won't support Draper's plan and may force the issue if Bush tries to duck it...

...One of the interesting aspects of the voucher plan is that Draper claims it could help raise the per pupil spending in Calif. up to the *national average* of about \$6,500. CTA doesn't buy that and says there are no teeth in Draper's plan to make the legislature raise the spending levels. And in fact, as Calpeek readers know, CTA had collected 1.4 million signatures for an initiative to require Gov. Davis and the Legislature to bring Calif. up to the national average, but the turn in procedure has been *suspended*, as Davis, the Legislature and CTA have reached an agreement for an additional \$1.84 billion above what Davis first proposed. Since much of this \$1.84 billion will go to teachers, sources say Gov. Davis wants tougher teacher accountability standards...

...FYI: Good thing for CTA that it pulled the plug on its initiative to raise school spending, because our sources say *private polling* show if CTA's initiative had been on the ballot with the voucher and the 55%/Son of 26 initiatives, there would have been massive voter confusion and the outcome might have been a disaster for CTA, with vouchers having a shot and the other two initiatives in trouble. Stay tuned...

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THE QUACKENBUSH SCANDAL: GOP INSIDERS ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT POLITICAL FALLOUT – YET...

Editor's note: Insiders watching the political drama surrounding the questionable actions of CA Insurance Comm. Chuck Quackenbush(R) awoke Sunday, May 7th to see an editorial in the *L.A. Times* calling on the embattled commissioner to *resign*. It's all about Comm. Q's deal to let insurance companies donate \$12.8 million to a foundation he established instead of paying nearly \$3 billion in fines for mishandling claims arising out of the Northridge earthquake. Here is Calpeek's analysis & commentary...

...The *L.A. Times* beat the competition to the punch in calling for Comm. Q to step down from office. The last paragraph of the editorial said it best: *This is not just politics. These are serious matters of the ethical responsibilities of an elected public official, a matter of public trust. Quackenbush has abused that public trust. With all his protestations, the words are empty. His actions demonstrate why Calif.'s consumers can no longer believe that he works for them...He shouldn't be on the public payroll.*"...

...Comm. Q is a Republican, but you haven't seen too many GOP elected officials stepping up to the plate to defend the commissioner's actions. Nor is it very likely that you ever will. And in the months ahead it's doubtful that you'll see Q on the same stage with other GOP candidates – especially not GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush. As one GOP political consultant told Calpeek, "Quackenbush is radioactive." And the bottomline is this: outrage over Q's actions is not limited to just Demos. There are lots of GOP officeholders who are POed too...

...Calpeek spoke with several GOP political insiders and they all came to the same set of conclusions: 1) the way the insurance department was run under Q's command was like "amateur night in Dixie" with no one having the guts to tell Q that what he was doing was wrong; 2) the key problem for Quackenbush was the distribution of funds to non-earthquake related projects – where a number of well known consultants and pr/pa firms made a ton of money; and 3) to date, Q's worst mistake was when he told the Assembly Insurance Cmt. that he was not aware of a \$500,000 contribution from his foundation to the Sacramento Urban League. But Comm. Q was caught on videotape at the League's dinner talking about the donation. With regard to the videotape, one GOP political consultant told Calpeek, "Some people just never learn. It just adds to the view that Quackenbush is a bubble-headed pretty boy."...

...So what's next? AG Bill Lockyer(D) continues to probe

this scandal and has won a court ruling blocking Q's foundation from spending any more assets; the two legislative committees continue their investigations; and the FPPC is working on the case too. There's been no cries for *recall* – and such a move would not only be costly, but a waste of time because Q is *termed out* in 2002 (that's from the folks who wrote Prop. 103). However, the earthquake victims have called for Comm. Q's *impeachment*. That would require a majority vote in the Assembly to send the impeachment recommendation to the State Senate, where it would take a 2/3rd vote to remove Q. Not much talk among lawmakers about impeachment right now, because the new 2000-2001 budget is their #1 priority. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: At this point, Calpeek has covered all four of the key U.S. House races in Calif. and so we'll now focus some attention to our *Watch List*. These are races where the incumbents are favored to win, but could still provide some interesting moments. This week we'll briefly look at the 20th CD (Dooley); 23rd CD (Gallegly); and 24th CD (Sherman)...

☒ **24th CD** – Calpeek sources don't anticipate that U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman(D-Sherman Oaks) will have a serious challenge from GOP rival Jerry Doyle, who is an actor best known as the security chief in the *Babylon 5* sci-fi tv series. Although GOP Conference Chair J.C. Watts was here in the L.A. area April 25th campaigning on behalf of Doyle, the fact is Doyle has raised very little money. His FEC report showed contributions of just \$23,490, with cash on hand of \$22,870 and a debt of \$20,000 (personal loan). Doyle's campaign HQ is in Calabasas ☎(818)223-8051. As for Sherman, he's proved to be a solid campaigner and has knocked off two well-funded GOPers: Rich Sybert in '96 and Randy Hoffman in '98. Sherman has total receipts of \$677,350, but still has big debts left over from the two previous campaigns of \$518,063. But he has paid off some of those personal loans. Sherman's cash on hand is listed as \$173,461. Sherman campaign consultant Parke Skelton will keep his eye on the fall election, but doesn't anticipate any problems, especially with Sherman's strong 66% open primary showing. Sherman is safe for a 3rd term...

☒ **23th CD** – U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly(R-Simi Valley) will be shooting for this 8th term in the House, but in 2000 he faces a well-funded challenger in Demo attorney Michael Case. Case is a partner in the well-connected Ventura Co. law firm of Ferguson, Case, Orr, Patterson & Cunningham. It's the county's 3rd largest law firm and Case is the president of the county Bar Assn. He's also a former Air Force officer. This CD is in transition, meaning the demographics are improving for Demo candidates. In 1998, both Davis &

Boxer carried the 23rd CD. Gallegly hasn't faced a well-funded Demo since '92 when he ran against Anita Perez-Ferguson. Gallegly is a traditional conservative. He's pro-life and has voted against the assault weapons ban and other anti-gun bills. But he did vote correctly on HMO reform. However, if there's a weak spot it's the fact that Gallegly has consistently been pro-187 and this won't sit well with Ventura Co.'s growing *Hispanic* voting population. Gallegly has cash on hand of \$891,460, with debts of just \$12,308. Case has c-o-h of \$213,988, but has a debt of \$62,000 from a personal loan. Case has hired Ambrosino & Muir as his lead consultant, with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin as pollsters. Jonathan Brown is Case's daily mgr. Gallegly doesn't have a consultant and usually runs his own campaign. If Case pumps in more of his own \$\$, the race could tighten, but right now it seems fairly safe for Gallegly, who got 63.3% of the open primary vote vs. 24.9% for Case...

☒ **20th CD** – This is an update from a brief story Calpeek ran 3 weeks ago. This Central Valley CD is represented by U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Visalia). His GOP opponent is tv anchor/sportscaster Rich Rodriguez(R-Fresno). The most current FEC report lists Rodriguez's receipts at \$126,335, with cash on hand of \$101,783, with no debts. Rodriguez is interviewing tv/media consultants at this time, but has hired Public Opinion Strategies for polling and Joe Galli is the daily cmp. mgr. Dooley's lead consultant is Bill Knapp, while polling is done by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin. Dooley had cash on hand of \$434,984. Leans Demo because in past primaries Dooley has been under 50%. In the Mar. 7th primary, Dooley was at nearly 52%. Stay tuned...

SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

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NEW CALIFORNIA VOTER REGISTRATION INFO

Editor's note: As of Mar. 7, 2000, there were 14,631,805 voters registered to vote in the Calif. Primary. Here's the partisan political party breakdown:

Democrats	6,684,668	45.69%
Republicans	5,140,951	35.14
Decline to State	2,032,663	13.89
Amer. Indep.	295,387	2.02
Green	108,904	.74
Libertarian	87,183	.60
Reform	85,869	.59
Natural Law	62,183	.42
Miscellaneous	133,997	.92

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

June 2	24 th Annual Field Institute workshop, S.F.
June 8	VICA's 23 rd Annual dinner, Universal City.
June 22-24	17 th Annual Conf. of Nat'l Assn. of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials, Denver, CO.
July 31-Aug. 3	RNC Presidential Convention – Philadelphia.
Aug. 10-13	Reform Party Presidential Convention – Long Beach, CA.
Aug. 14-17	DNC Presential Convention – Los Angeles.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **More on School Vouchers** – The CTA's and Gov. Davis' answer to school vouchers is charter schools. And while Silicon Valley business executive Tim Draper is the guy who is currently pushing vouchers in 2000, it was his Silicon Valley buddies who have been most supportive of more charter schools. Where will they end up on this 2000 campaign fight? FYI: the biggest support for vouchers may come from key Demo base groups: voters in the urban areas throughout Calif. The biggest opponents are likely to be moderates and conservatives who live in the suburbs who fear that vouchers will take away money from their schools. Interesting...

■ **Gasoline Consumption in CA** – Turns out that Calif. is the world's 3rd largest consumer of gasoline, this according to a GAO report requested by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D-CA). As for why we have such high gasoline prices compared to other States, the GAO report says gas prices "spike up higher, but no more frequently, in Calif. due to unplanned refinery outages that upset the supply-demand relationship in the State." GAO report says refineries in Calif. operate at almost full capacity the year round --- and in the future, given Calif.'s growth, the State may face more shortages and higher prices because we don't have enough refining capacity...

■ **New L.A. Development Proposed** – The owners of Staples Center have proposed a new development project which could cost as much as \$1 billion and would include new restaurants & theaters, a 4-star 40 story hotel, plus 800 residential units. There's only one problem: developers say it would require a taxpayer subsidy. Uppps. There's no doubt this taxpayer subsidy will turn into a political issue among the 5-6 candidates who are running for mayor in 2001. The taxpayer subsidy is taylor-made for L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs, who nearly derailed the Staples Center deal until taxpayer subsidies were eliminated...

■ **DNC Production Team** – The executive producer for 2000 DNC presidential convention in L.A. will be Gary Smith, while Ricky Kirshner will be the producer and Thomas E. Gorman will be director of production. FYI: Smith has been the exec. producer for the last 3 DNC conventions. Need info about the convention? Go to the DNC's website: www.Dems2000.com...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Gov. Davis' press secretary, Michael Bustamante, is leaving June 2nd to become communications director for Voter.com. Bustamante will be based in DC...

● U.S. Rep. Steve Horn(R-Long Beach) has hired Mary Ellen Grant as press secretary and Jaime Vickery as legislative assistant...

● L.A. Councilman Alex Padilla has named Monique Kagan as his chief of staff. Kagan was Councilwoman Ruth Galanter's deputy COS...

● Jackie Rodgers has been elected chair of the Ventura Co. Republican Central Cmt...

● Don Powell, former vp of political sales at TeleMark in Portland, has departed to form Don Powell/Phones. He can be reached at (503)248-9272 or pdw1@uswest.net...

● This will be the last election cycle for Jamie Fox as executive director of the Demo Senatorial Cmp. Cmt. He will become exec. director for AIDS Action...

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